

April 9, 1975

SENATOR GEORGE: I have nothing absolutely against the citizens right to vote, and if you want to have it more than two days, that is fine with me. You are just picking the wrong date.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: No, I am just asking you which right of a citizen, in your opinion, is more weighty than the right to vote?

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Right. I agree with you, Senator George, and thank you. I knew how he felt and I know how most people in this body who thought about it feel. In the history that we take as small children, they taught us that the rallying cry in the American Revolution was, taxation without representation is tyranny. That the Parliament in England was tyrannizing over the colonies because nobody in that Parliament had been voted for by anybody in the colonies on this North American continent. Therefore, since they had nothing to say about who sat in that Parliament, there was nobody in that Parliament who enjoyed a community of interest with the citizens in these colonies. Therefore, a tax levied on these colonies by that Parliament could not be binding on the colonists. Now there were other underlying reasons why the Revolution occurred but that was the rallying cry. Ever since that time, people have talked about the great value, the importance of voting, and I think, if it is generally agreed that the right of a citizen to vote is one of the most important rights enjoyed in this county, I don't think that right should be hindered in any way by inconvenience to an inefficient county clerk or a lazy county clerk. This amendment is not going to do anything except make voting easier. Education throughout this state is often defective in many respects. Civics classes don't teach much about the dynamics of Government nor do they emphasize the importance of voting. When you look at the kind of people who wind up in elective offices, you can understand why there might be apathy. But until people have placed in their hands the tools, or if you will, the weapons necessary to improve the type of government that governs them, you will continue to have apathy. I think this amendment should be adopted. It should be given a chance. It is permissive and I am certain that if a person's primary responsibility at a polling place is to let people vote, then they will understand that if somebody came to register, they would have to tell them, wait until we have some slack, and I am sure the person would wait. Especially, Senator Kime, if they had driven 30 miles for that purpose.

SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes Senator Keyes.

SENATOR KEYES: Mr. Speaker, Senator Chambers, the right to vote to me is the most important thing, one of the most important things that I have but in the little district that I live where they can almost stand and throw to the next neighbor, I have to...in order to register to vote so I can vote on everything that comes up, I have to know what fire department I am in, what part of the NRD I am in, what school district I am in, what irrigation or drainage ditch because my brother happens to be in the drainage ditch that only controls...has five people in it but he has to know how to vote in there and then in our county and so I have to know and right today I cannot tell you what precinct,